

**DEMONSTRATIONS OF OPERATIVE SURGERY.** By Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.R.S.E. Third Edition revised by A. R. Isaac, F.R.C.S.(Ed.). (Pp. XII+431 ; figs. 485. 50s). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1967.

THIS publication maintains the very high standards of the Hamilton Bailey series. It contains a vast amount of essential information for nurses and surgeons. The presentation is clear, concise and easy to read. The black and white illustrations add greatly to the value of the book and the list of instruments illustrated is, in the reviewer's opinion, a most useful feature.

Section 1 gives a really helpful account of the principles underlying all the work of an operating theatre, including the duties and responsibilities of the nurse viz a vis the surgeon and anaesthetist.

The general high standard is maintained throughout the other sections and it would be invidious to single out any one of them, but it is interesting to note the "bone forceps" method of circumcision being advocated.

I have nothing but praise for this excellent book, and would thoroughly recommend it, especially to nurses and young surgeons in the early stages of their training, and also senior medical students. D.M.B.

**A PRIMER OF PATHOLOGY.** By F. A. Ward, L.R.C.P.I., M.C.Path. Second Edition. (Pp. VIII+116. 22s. 6d). London: Butterworth, 1967.

To write a simple introduction to pathology is a task of the greatest difficulty and anyone attempting it is unlikely to satisfy other pathologists. This chatty like volume manages to convey some useful information without overtaxing the mental equipment of the student. It is in no way a systematic study. The medical student, nowadays carefully selected and replete with physiological and biochemical knowledge, must surely find it light fare. It relates some pathological facts to clinical practice, but it fails to build on the basic scientific training of the student. The medical student may gain some useful, if isolated, facts from this little book, but it is to be hoped he will soon discard it and learn some pathology. Nurses and other auxiliaries may learn a little, and it is to be hoped they will appreciate how little. J.E.M.

**STEDMAN'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY.** Twenty-first Edition. (Pp. XLIX+1836 ; plates 31. 105s). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1966.

It is only after some study of this dictionary that the full wealth of information contained within it can be appreciated. It is very probable that too many think of such a dictionary only as an aid to spelling or to define some unusual word. *Stedman's* will certainly do this, and since the last edition in 1961 it is interesting to note that 9,183 new entries have been added and 8,897 revised. Through the morass of new terminology the consultant panel is a valuable guide, and, as stated in the preface, the dictionary, if it to be a useful guide to a living language, must spell, pronounce and define the words as they are used – not wistfully, as they should be. At the same time the introductory pages are a rich treasure of verbal knowledge and sound scholarship which, if used, would refine many of the barbarous new words introduced into science.

The plates are a useful anatomical atlas. Over 120 tables in the text are valuable summaries of medical data and in 10 appendices a wide range of information from blood groups to printers' corrections is covered.

This is an American dictionary and a useful note gives the main differences from British spelling. It may be a matter of regret, but it must be admitted, that by regular and careful revision and in detailed coverage this American work has become the medical dictionary of the English speaking world.